

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00559 010820Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/060 W

----- 124249

R 010600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3847

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, SW

SUBJECT: CIA IN THE NEWS

REF: STATE 019324

1. THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) RECEIVED PUBLIC ATTENTION ON AT LEAST TWO FRONTS IN SWEDEN THIS WEEK. THE FIRST QUESTION PUT TO PRIME MINISTER PALME DURING A MEETING WITH 37 AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE STUDENTS (MOST OF THEM AMERICANS) ON JAN 30 WAS WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THE CIA. ACCORDING TO AFTONBLADET ACCOUNT, THE ONLY PAPER TO CARRY STORY, PALME LAUGHED AND TOLD QUESTIONER (BOB SHARMAN FROM SAN FRANCISCO) THAT MANY YEARS AGO HE HAD MADE A STUDY TRIP TO ASIA FINANCED BY AN AMERICAN FOUNDATION. LATER, PALME SAID, HE LEARNED THAT THE FOUNDATION HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE CIA, AND ADDED "I'M AFRAID THAT TODAY THEY FEEL I WAS A POOR INVESTMENT*" THE YOUTH THEN ASKED IF THE CIA WERE ACTIVE IN SWEDEN, TO WHICH PALME REPLIED, "THEY ARE HERE, NO DOUBT, BUT ON A SMALL SCALE."

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00559 010820Z

2. THE SAME DAY, SWEDISH TELEVISION PRESENTED AN INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP AGEE, AUTHOR OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED "INSIDE THE COMPANY: CIA DIARY." AGEE DESCRIBED HIS WORK WITH CIA FROM 1957-68, MOSTLY IN LATIN AMERICA. MUCH OF THE INTERVIEW CONCENTRATED ON THE ALLEGED "ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES" CARRIED OUT BY CIA IN ECUADOR, MEXICO, AND URUGUAY, INCLUDING TELEPHONE TAPPING, BRIBERY, THE CREATION OF FALSE DOCUMENTS, ETC. ALTHOUGH CONFESSING THAT HE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH CIA'S EUROPEAN OPERATIONS, AGEE SAID HE COULD EXTRAPOLATE THAT SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WERE CARRIED ON IN EUROPE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, AGEE SAID THE CIA WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RESORT TO MURDER IF NECESSARY. PRESSED BY THE INTERVIEWER TO TALK ABOUT CIA OPERATIONS IN SWEDEN, AGEE IDENTIFIED TWO PERSONS AS CONNECTED WITH CIA, WALTER JACK KAUFFMAN (WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS A FORMER CIA STATION CHIEF) AND JACK KINDSCHI. THE BASIC MOTIVATION FOR CIA OPERATIONS, AGEE ASSERTED, WERE THE ADVANCEMENT OF US ECONOMIC INTEREST.

3. AGEE'S INTERVIEW WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH FORMER EMPLOYEE OF SWEDISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IB HAKAN ISACSON, WHO TALKED ABOUT IB COOPERATION WITH THE CIA "THROUGH A CONTACT MAN IN THE US EMBASSY." IN CONTRAST TO AGEE, ISACSON WAS GUARDED IN HIS COMMENTS. HE SAID MAIN EFFORTS OF CIA IN SWEDEN WERE DIRECTED AT FOREIGN EMBASSIES, PARTICULARLY SOVIET EMBASSY. ASKED IF CIA WERE INVOLVED WITH SWEDISH LABOR MOVEMENT, ISACSON REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF IT WERE NOT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, PRESS CONFERENCES, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STOCKH00559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0919
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750280/aaaactxc.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 019324
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIA IN THE NEWS
TAGS: PINR, SW, US, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006